

Application no. 10/798,204  
Amendment dated: May 23, 2005  
Reply to office action dated: February 23, 2005

### **Amendments to the Claims**

#### **Listing of Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Please amend claims 1-13, 15 and 18-19, as set out below:

1 (Currently Amended). A hard laminate sheet made according to the method of claim 10 for security booklets, ~~comprising at least two hard core layers and a flexible component between said core layers and extending beyond an outer edge of said core layers to form a flexible band, wherein said flexible component comprises a plurality of apertures within which material of said adjacent core layers is laminated together and affixes said flexible component to said laminate sheet.~~

2 (Currently Amended). A hard laminate sheet made according to the method of claim 11 ~~according to claim 1, wherein said flexible component is part of an intermediate layer between said core layers, said intermediate layer comprising a hard component laminated to said adjacent core layers and said flexible component juxtaposed with said hard component.~~

3 (Currently Amended). A hard laminate sheet made according to claim 12 ~~according to claim 1 and further comprising one or more additional hard core layers, wherein all said core layers are directly or indirectly laminated together.~~

4 (Currently Amended). A laminate sheet made according to the method of claim 14 ~~according to claim 2 and further comprising one or more additional hard core layers, wherein all said core layers are directly or indirectly laminated together.~~

5 (Currently Amended). A laminate sheet made according to the method of

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~~claim 15 according to claim 2 wherein said core layers and said hard component of said intermediate layer are comprised of polycarbonate.~~

6 (Currently Amended). A laminate sheet made according to the method of claim 16 according to claim 4 wherein said core layers and said first component of said intermediate layer are comprised of polycarbonate.

7 (Currently Amended). A laminate sheet made according to the method of claim 17 according to claim 1 wherein said flexible component is comprised of nylon.

8 (Currently Amended). A laminate sheet made according to the method of claim 18 according to claim 1 configured for laser engraving.

9 (Currently Amended). A laminate sheet made according to the method of claim 19 according to claim 6 and comprising a hard core inlay layer for embedding a contactless integrated circuit chip and antenna.

10 (Currently Amended). A method for making a hard laminate sheet ~~for security booklets~~, having a flexible band at one side thereof for use in incorporating said sheet into a security booklet, said method comprising the steps of:

- (i) providing at least two one or more hard core sheets as hard core layer(s) of a lower section of said laminate sheet;
- (ii) providing and a flexible component between said core layers and extending sheet over at least a portion of said lower section of hard core layer(s) whereby a portion of said flexible sheet extends beyond an outer edge of said core layers to form a lower section to provide said flexible band, said flexible component sheet comprising a plurality of apertures in an area of said flexible sheet over said lower section;

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(iii) providing one or more hard core sheets over both said lower section and said flexible sheet portion there over, as hard core layers of an upper section of said laminate sheet, whereby said upper and lower sections are positioned for lamination together; and,

(iv) laminating said hard core layers to produce core-to-core bonds between said adjacent hard core layers and within said apertures of said flexible component sheet from material of said core layers adjacent said flexible component,

whereby said core-to-core bonds within said apertures affixes said flexible component sheet to said laminate sheet.

11 (Currently Amended). A method according to claim 10 whereby said flexible sheet component is provided over a side portion of said lower section and a partial hard core sheet is provided over an opposite side of said lower section, in juxtaposition with said flexible sheet, by an intermediate layer between said core layers, said intermediate layer also comprising a hard component juxtaposed with said flexible component, and whereby said laminating step includes laminating said partial hard core sheet comprises laminating said adjacent core layers and said hard component.

12 (Currently Amended). A method according to claim 10, whereby a front and back of said laminate sheet, defined by outermost ones of said hard core sheets, are printable up to said outer edge adjacent said flexible band ~~one or more additional hard core layers are provided and said core layers are directly or indirectly laminated together.~~

13 (Currently Amended). A method according to claim 11, whereby a front and back of said laminate sheet, defined by outermost ones of said hard core sheets, are printable up to said outer edge adjacent said flexible band ~~one or more additional hard core layers are provided and said core layers are directly or indirectly laminated together.~~

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14 (Original). A method according to claim 10 whereby said core layers are comprised of polycarbonate.

15 (Currently Amended). A method according to claim 11 whereby said core layers ~~and said hard component of said intermediate layer~~ are comprised of polycarbonate.

16 (Original). A method according to claim 10 wherein said flexible component is comprised of nylon.

17 (Original). A method according to claim 11 wherein said flexible component is comprised of nylon.

18 (Currently Amended). A method according to claim 10 whereby said lamine sheet is configured for laser engraving.

19 (Currently Amended). A method according to claim 12 and further comprising providing a hard core inlay layer configured for embedding a contactless integrated circuit chip whereby said laminating step includes laminating said inlay layer.